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A VOICE FROM THE WEST.

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REV. BELA JACOBS' REPORT

OF HIS

TOUR IN THE WESTERN STATES,

PERFORMED

IN THE SPRING AND SUMMER OF 1833.

PRESENTED TO THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WESTERN BAPTIST

EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION,

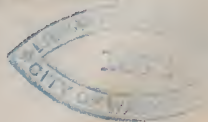
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Boston, September 9, 1833,

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NEW YORK CITY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1833.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Baptist Home Mission Society held this day at the Mission Rooms, Clinton Hall, the following resolution was adopted, viz.

"Resolved, That this Committee consider it as a matter of high moment and interest to the cause of Home Missions, that common schools and education generally be advanced in the Western States; and that to this end we recommend to all the friends of Home Missions the plan and efforts of 'the WESTERN BAPTIST EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.'"

A true copy of Record,

Attest,

JONATHAN GOING, Cor. Sec'y.

☞ Donations for the support of Schools or Education in the West will be received by the Treasurer, N. R. COBB, Esq. No. 28, Kilby St. Boston, and appropriated by the Executive Committee agreeably to the wishes of the donors.

Errata.—On page 14, line 13 from top, for *plains* read *places*.

THE WEST.

IF YOU WOULD PRESERVE THE MIGHTY WEST, EDUCATE ITS INHABITANTS, AND TEACH THEM THE FEAR OF THE LORD.

THE WESTERN BAPTIST EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION was organized in Boston, at the Lecture Room of the Federal Street Baptist Church, on the 30th of May, 1832, and an Executive Committee chosen for the purpose of carrying into active efficiency the great object of the organization. After repeated application to different individuals, the Committee finally succeeded in obtaining a Corresponding Secretary, the Rev. BELA JACOBS of Cambridgeport, who, immediately after his acceptance of his appointment, left his residence for the Western States, and performed during the past summer an extensive tour in that country. During this journey Mr. JACOBS not only made himself acquainted with the condition, feelings, and wants of the inhabitants, but established in all the central and principal places through which he passed, Committees of correspondence, who engaged to keep him constantly informed respecting the prominent openings for schools, and to receive and pay particular attention to all persons whom he may introduce to them as teachers. It will be perceived from these statements, that the great object of the Association, viz. "*to promote general education in the Western part of our country,*" will probably be accomplished to some happy extent. At least the Executive Committee are determined to discharge the duty assigned them, and if the West find friends to aid them in this design, they have no fear that it will fail.

The Committee are encouraged to prosecute the object of their appointment. The Secretary states that he was every where cordially received, and hailed as a friend to the West; that he was assured by all to whom he made known his object, *that the true way to benefit the West, is to educate its population*; and so says every genuine philanthropist, and so emphasises every leading statesman of the land. Mr. JACOBS was repeatedly requested while in that country, and since his return letters of the most pressing and entreative character have come to his hand, urgently soliciting him to furnish them with the means of education. In a few instances they ask for pecuniary aid; but in general, they ask for suitable and competent teachers, saying, "*such teachers we are not only willing to support, but anxiously await their arrival.*" How can the Committee help being encouraged when pressed by such requests, and sustained by such assurances?

The Committee do not contemplate a system of operations that will require great pecuniary assistance. They ask for no more than a sum sufficient to support the Secretary and his correspondence. Numerous applications will doubtless be made for such aid, but these will be submitted for the patronage of the friends of education. To this course the

Committee mean to adhere. Feeling the pressure of the times, aware of the claims of the Newton Theological Institution, and of the Northern Baptist Education Society, they would regret the existence of another Educational Body which would require large public contributions for its support ; on these, as well as other accounts, they merely intend to meet their necessary expenses, full in the belief that having done this, they will be able to accomplish an amount of good, not greatly surpassed by any of the other benevolent Boards.

The plan, the Committee have proposed to themselves to pursue, is simply to correspond with the most influential persons in the West, in reference to the common and higher education of the inhabitants of their respective townships and States ; to excite in them a spirit to provide for the education of their own children ; to influence them to establish schools in every neighbourhood, and academies at convenient distances, where not only the branches of an English education shall be taught, but instruction given in Bible Theology to all who may desire it, and thus gradually prepare the way for the establishment of colleges and theological institutions.

The Committee are not ignorant of the extent of the field, and though they can do little towards what must be done, if the West be saved to the cause of virtue and piety, yet they will not decline doing that little ; they are anxious to do what they can, and through the grace of God, they should hope not to be disappointed. The immediate business of the Secretary will be, in addition to what has been already stated, to interest teachers in that portion of the country, and to direct them to such persons as will place them in immediate employment, where they will be able to support themselves. When thus located, they cannot only teach the children during the week, but on the Lord's-day instruct them in the word of God. They can conduct Bible Classes, and perform to no small extent, the duties both of a day school teacher and a Christian Missionary. It is known to many that there are pious persons, both male and female, who are anxious to settle as teachers in the West. They are preparing themselves for this service, and looking to this Committee for direction. The Committee anticipate the pleasure soon of seeing them thus delightfully employed ; and also of beholding a far greater number of the sons and daughters of New England there stationed to teach the rising age.

The Committee desire that it may be distinctly understood, that they have good reason to believe that circumstances in the course of a few years will justify the union of the objects before them, with the American Baptist Home Mission Society ; that that Society will see its way clear to authorize and instruct all persons in their employ, while they attend to what is strictly Missionary, to pay special attention likewise to the Education of the people. Then the necessity of a distinct association for this purpose will have ceased ; and then the Committee will cheerfully relinquish their active operations, and quietly sit down to bless God, that *Education and Missions* have become united, and constitute the prominent objects of that Board, to which they in the first place principally belonged.

In behalf of the Executive Committee of the W. B. E. Ass.

HENRY JACKSON.

Charlestown, October 15, 1833.

R E P O R T .

TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WESTERN BAPTIST
EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING by your request performed a tour in the Western States, as your agent, I deem it proper to lay before you the result of my investigations; the plans of operation which have been formed; and the practicability and importance of carrying into operation those plans for the promotion of Education in the West.

Agreeably to my instructions, I left home on the 20th of May last, for the purpose of surveying this extensive region, and learn, as far as practicable, in the time, the state of society; and especially the number and condition of their schools of every grade; to make myself acquainted with the wishes of the inhabitants in regard to education; and ascertain the best mode of promoting it.

It was my purpose to pass through the States situated in the Northern part of the great Valley, fixing on the most promising places to obtain information; to form acquaintance with some influential persons in the different sections of the country; and establish correspondence at different points.

It could not be expected that I should be able, in the very limited time of three months, to traverse this extensive country in its length and breadth,

and to go over the whole ground in detail; but only to visit the most important places, and to make these the central points of operation in their respective neighbourhoods through agents appointed on the spot.

The following is a brief outline of my journey. After visiting the Theological Institution at Hamilton, N. Y., I passed up the Canal and Lake Erie, and landed in Erie, Penn. thus entering the State of Ohio, on the N. E. corner. I passed along its Northern border through what is called *New Connecticut* or the *Western Reserve*, to Cleaveland; thence down through the centre of the State to Newark and Granville; there I took a Western course through the counties of Franklin, Madison, York and Green to Dayton; and then down the Miami Canal to Cincinnati. After spending a week at this place, I started for the far distant West on the 10th of July, and descended the Ohio River, stopping occasionally at places in Indiana, on the right, and Kentucky on the left, until I reached Shawnee town in Illinois; where I left the river, and crossed the country to Kaskaskia, on the Mississippi; here I crossed the great Western stream, and landed in Missouri; visited St. Genevieve and St. Louis in that State, and then passed up the river to Alton in Illinois. It was my intention to ascend to the upper settlement of this State and to visit the rich and rapidly populating counties of Morgan and Sangamon; but learning that the cholera raged at that time in the principal towns in that section, and that there was no public conveyance across the State to Indiana from that quarter, I felt myself under the necessity of returning by

the St. Louis' road. I made myself acquainted with the state of education in Alton, and with the feelings of the inhabitants in regard to the Literary and Theological Institution established there; attended an Association in Edwardsville, and gained the great Eastern road at Rockspring. Thence I pursued my journey East to Vincennes in Indiana, making the necessary inquiries by the way.

From Vincennes I ascended the Wabash through the principal towns, and then into the interior to Indianapolis, and descended again to the Ohio through the populous counties of Shelby, Decatur, Ripley and Dearborne, and crossing my former track at Cincinnati, I passed up the South East part of Ohio to Wheeling, where I took leave of the Western Valley.

I travelled in the four States which compose the Northern half of this extensive vale, rising of 2000 miles; and in all my route more than 3300 miles. I have great reason to express my gratitude to the great Preserver of men, who has preserved me from all dangers, and especially amidst wasting disease and pestilential death, to which multitudes fell victims during the past season.

My health, particularly during the latter part of the time, was poor, owing in a great measure, probably, to the bad qualities of the water, the excessive heat of the season, and the very general prevalence of cholera influence all over the West.

Being dependent on public conveyances, and restricted in regard to time, I was unable to visit several places which I considered important; when this was the case, however, I endeavoured to make amends by opening a correspondence with some

prominent and influential persons, soliciting information from them, and engaging their co-operation in the efforts of the Society.

STATE OF SOCIETY AND EDUCATION.

I am persuaded that descriptions of the West have been overwrought, and in many instances the colouring has been too high. Some tourists from the East with a warm imagination and glowing fancy have painted the country as a paradise; while others, to awaken, perhaps, the sympathies of the East in behalf of their moral and religious improvement, have underrated the morals of the inhabitants of the West, and have exhibited them in the light of semi-barbarians. The truth is evidently between these two extremes.

They have undoubtedly many natural advantages, and an exceedingly good land; but, like the most of our earth since the primeval curse, there are found "*thorns and briars*" also. On the other hand, the morals of the people are not so low as they have too often been represented to be. In this respect, I am persuaded, they would bear a comparison with some other parts of our country more highly distinguished by external privileges than they. Boatmen upon their waters, and loungers, for the most part foreigners, at the public inns should not be received as a fair specimen of the inhabitants. This would not be admitted of any country, and much resembles the ill-natured strictures on our national character which are sometimes made by writers on the other side of the Atlantic. It is from a wish to rescue the good people of the West from some of the foul aspersions

cast upon them, and to disabuse the public, that I make these remarks.

When it is considered that they are all strangers on the soil which they inhabit, that they came from every State in the Union, and from almost every kingdom in Europe, bringing with them all the peculiarities of their views, their national and sectional prejudices; and when the destitution of these means which improve the morals and secure the elevation of society are taken into the account, I think it will rather appear surprising that the standard of morals is no lower. True, they cannot present that array of churches or meeting-houses, of academies and schools, which are found in the old States at the East, yet there are beginnings of these things which promise well for time to come; and many very worthy, intelligent and pious persons, who are exerting a salutary influence on the community, are scattered through all the region. Letters of agents, circulated in the periodicals and public journals representing the inhabitants of the West in the lowest state of degradation, have gone back to them and have had a powerful influence in prejudicing some worthy characters against the benevolent operations of the East.

In relation to schools, it may be said in general, that the inhabitants are anxious for their establishment and improvement; and I was every where cordially received and treated with politeness when my object was made known. All acknowledged that the promoters of this charity, were seeking the greatest good of the West. There are exceptions to this general sentiment. Persons are met with who care but little for the education of their

families; but such persons may be found every where, and this darkness the light of education must chase away.

It is well known that the first emigrants to the West, as to most new countries, are those who seek mainly the good things of *this world*; they are allured to the Great Valley by the cheapness of the land, the luxuriance of the soil, and the ease with which a livelihood can be obtained. To persons of this description, literary and religious privileges, if valued at all, are but secondary considerations; yet, interspersed with these, are many who have been reared under the fostering hand of literary and religious education, who are desirous of seeing foundations of these things laid in the West, and are ready to lend their aid according to their ability. There is much doing, but yet there is a wide and extending field unoccupied, which, like their own luxuriant soil, invites cultivation.

In presenting a compressed view of what is now doing, and of the necessities of this wide spread region, I begin with

OHIO.....This State, in comparison of its sister States West of it, may be called an *old State*. Ohio, as might be expected, is far in advance of them in her literary Institutions. Several Colleges are in successful operation; and schools of every grade are found here. In that part of the State, however, denominated the *Western Reserve* or *New Connecticut*, which includes eight counties situated on the lake shore, between Sandusky-bay and the Pennsylvania line, common schools are perhaps more numerous and better conducted than in any other equal part of the State. In all the Western States

there is a reservation of one section of land (*one thirty-sixth part*) in each township for *school purposes*. In addition to this, Ohio assesses by law, three-fourths of a mill on the dollar upon all taxable property for the same purposes. But, to show how inadequate this provision is for the education of her children, I need only advert to an official statement lately made, that the disbursements in the year 1832 from the school funds, were only 95 cents per head for every pupil of suitable age to attend school. There are, however, many private schools; and, in some of the cities and large towns, they are well supported. Still there is evidently a large number of children who are not brought under instruction, and are, consequently, growing up in ignorance. If a statement made in the "*Western Magazine*" be correct, one fourth of their whole population is necessarily precluded the benefit of their schools. It is stated in the July number of that work, that there are 250,000 Germans in the State of Ohio, who, as it is implied, use the German language. I could not learn that there were any schools established among them in their own language. Being thus precluded from participating in the English schools, and destitute of German schools, the present generation, at least, must grow up in ignorance. If it is said that most of these are Catholics, this will only show the subject to be more serious.

The Baptists as a denomination, have but little visible influence in directing the operations of education in this State. They are, however, beginning to appreciate its importance, as it regards both the ministry and the children of their congregations.

The educational operations at Granville are certainly very praise-worthy, and already promise much to our denomination, and will soon reflect great honour on the friends of correct principles and sound learning in this young, but large and rising commonwealth. I was delighted with what I saw in this place. The state of this infant Institution far exceeded my expectations, and I am persuaded that the friends of education at the East have not fully appreciated the importance of this Institution, and the immense influence which it may be made to exert not only over this State, but on all the West. The friends and patrons of this Institution amidst many discouragements and adverse providences have manifested a becoming zeal, and have gone forward in their laudable efforts with steady perseverance. They have reared up a new and commodious edifice from the ashes of the late conflagration, and already have it filled with students. At a late convention, they pledged themselves to wipe off an embarrassing debt of \$6000. And it is fervently hoped that means may be devised to increase their funds, and enlarge their operations. The professors and teachers are entitled to great praise for their arduous and untiring labours. There are now in a course of study eighty-eight young men and lads, seventy-four of whom are pursuing classical studies, and fourteen are English scholars. From twenty-five to thirty are hopefully pious, and about twenty are looking forward to the ministry. There is an excellent farm attached to the Institution, and they are erecting work-shops. As the manual labour system can here be carried into full operation, great facilities may thus be afforded to young men of small pecuniary means.

There is also in the village, an academy or high school for young ladies, under the patronage of the Baptists. Mr. POLAND from Mass. is the principal. This school, though but lately commenced, already numbers between thirty and forty in the upper department, and nearly as many in the primary. I look upon these Institutions as promising great good to our denomination in the West.

Measures should be taken immediately to establish a high school of the first grade at Cincinnati on the South, and at Cleaveland on the North. Nor would there be any difficulty, it is presumed, in sustaining such schools, if suitable persons would undertake on their own responsibility. Besides these places, which are of the first importance, there are many pleasant towns and villages, where High Schools might be opened with encouraging prospects. Common and primary schools may be established with ease all over the State.

INDIANA.....In this State, things are somewhat different, the State is comparatively new, and the literary institutions are in their infancy. Several, perhaps three Colleges have been incorporated, however; but one only is, I believe, in successful operation.

This State seems not to have attracted so much attention at the East as Illinois; but it certainly presents a more important field of *immediate* labour, than the sister State West of it, as it has more than double the population, on a space equal to about one half of the territory of Illinois. Besides, from the number of its towns and villages it furnishes more important points for fixed missionary and school operations than the other State can for a

considerable time. There are on the Ohio, and stretching up the banks of the Wabash, and on the Eastern side of the State, many very pleasant and thriving towns, where schools can be established, and where ministers should be stationed. Through a number of these towns I passed, and constantly felt deep regret that no more was doing, either for the enlightening of the rising generation or the salvation of the inhabitants.

The Baptists in this State, very generally neglect the towns or villages, leaving them to be occupied by others. Schools of some kind were found in almost all of the plains I visited; but few, however, were of a permanent kind or of an elevated rank. There is one peculiarity in the regulations of this State concerning schools. The Legislature has adopted a course which will make *crime aid the cause of education*, by directing that all fines and forfeitures arising from criminal causes, in the respective counties, shall go to constitute a common fund for the support of a county school of a high standing. In some of the counties, this already amounts to a considerable sum, and they are erecting seminaries, and are in want of competent teachers. The whole State presents a wide field for the establishment of common and primary schools.

The infant city of Indianapolis, may be named as an important station for an English High School.

One thing in the prospects of our denomination in this State is very encouraging. They are uniting their energies, and blending their efforts for their mutual improvement. The churches and brethren of the right stamp (and I am happy to say there are many such in the State,) formed a

convention last spring, "for the purpose of promoting the spread of the gospel;" and they are now taking measures to form an Education Society. It is fervently hoped, that in a short time, *Indiana* will not only have its Education Society, but its Literary and Theological Institution, adapted to the wants of the denomination, established and in successful operation.

ILLINOIS.....This extensive State presents a wide field for benevolent operations of every kind, and especially those connected with popular education. There are a few foundations for literary institutions laid, but they are for the most part small. The College at Jacksonville, under the control of the Pedo-baptists, is said to be well endowed, and in progress, but has not yet been able to obtain a charter.

The Baptists are commencing a Literary and Theological Institution at Upper ALTON, a place most happily situated in the very centre of operations, not only in relation to this State, but also the immense State of Missouri. The trustees have purchased a farm of between three and four hundred acres, and erected a small edifice of sufficient magnitude for present purposes; but are entirely *destitute of funds*.

The prospect is that could this Institution but go into operation with several competent teachers, it would soon have a number of young men in training for teachers for this destitute region, and for preachers of the gospel.

When we take into consideration the remote situation of this State; the rapid stream of emigration flowing into it; the certainty that her sons will

not, at least for many years, seek an education abroad ; that the sons of the church will be thrust into the ministry without education, and that consequently the present lamentable ignorance will be continued and increased, unless there is some remedy devised ; and when the central situation of *Alton* in the midst of a rapidly growing population of the friends of improvement, is taken into the account, it is confidently believed that the friends of education, the friends of their country, the friends of religion, will come forward and aid this infant institution.

Here the sons of Baptists who are at present opposed to the benevolent operations of the day will resort from all parts of the State, and have their prejudices subdued, their sectional jealousies done away, and their minds enlightened ; and will return to scatter light, and dissipate the darkness which now rests upon the minds of this large proportion of the denomination. If a stranger come in among them from the East, with enlightened views, they are suspicious and full of jealousy ; if he proceed in a manner diverse from their plan of acting, they oppose ; they sound the alarm ; he is deserted and left to stand alone. But it would, probably, soon be far different, if their own sons, nursed in the bosom of their churches, should receive an enlightened education and return to labour among them.

I did not learn that there is any other public provision for the support of schools in this State, except the usual section of land, which, in the present state of the country, can yield but little ; in most places nothing. Education, therefore, is to be

supported by the voluntary contributions of the inhabitants; and, owing to the sparse population, (only three to a square mile,) it is not to be expected that schools can be very numerous or well supported. There are, however, in all their county towns, schools at least for a part of the year; and even in their thinly scattered settlements around their wide spread praries, I was astonished to find schools. In more than one instance, I passed a log school-house apparently full of scholars with a male instructor and not a habitation in sight.

The plan of an itinerating school-master who should meet successively several classes on a circuit, was suggested to me prior to my leaving home; but I could not learn that there were any such in operation in that part of the State over which I travelled. Such a plan, however, is well adapted to a large portion of Illinois.

Their numerous and wide spread prairies necessarily divide the people and keep them separate. They build their cabins in the edge of the woods, and extend their fields into the prairie; the cottages are seen scattered around the margin, as on the shores of a lake. In such an arrangement of a school, it is thought that instruction would be carried to a class of children who would not otherwise obtain it, and at an expense which would be readily met by their parents, as a teacher furnished with a horse, might meet with ease half a dozen classes at given points in the course of the week. I expect that this plan will be commenced before long in some parts of the State.

We cannot take our leave of Illinois without expressing our conviction that this extensive State

is destined to exert, at no far distant day, a powerful influence over the great Valley of the West. A slight glance at the geographical situation will show the truth of this remark. This State, comprising an area of 52,000 square miles, washed on every side by the largest rivers of one of the largest valleys in the world, possesses almost unlimited capabilities for sustaining an immense population; while the facilities for trade afforded by its noble streams, together with the rapidity of its growth hitherto, are auguries of its future importance.

It should be remembered that Illinois has the Wabash, a stream of 500 miles in length on the East; the silvery waters of the Ohio bathe its Southern shore; the mighty "father of waters" is on its whole Western border; while its own river, the Illinois, flows almost through its centre, connecting the Mississippi with Lake Michigan on the North. The ease with which, by means of these streams, and their tributaries, communication is carried on between this and the neighbouring States, will have a favourable effect in attracting emigrants, and promoting the trade of the State.

All these considerations induce us to believe that this State will stamp its impress on those around it; and we cannot dismiss the conviction that the moral condition of this generation will be the mould into which the character of the future millions of this great Valley will be cast.

MISSOURI.....In relation to this State, I can say but little. I could only visit it at two points on the Mississippi, viz. at St. Genevieve and St. Louis; but judging from what I saw, and by all that I could learn from others in regard to the whole of this

large State, it presents a great and good field for benevolent effort, and calls aloud for missionary and literary cultivation.

The population is rapidly increasing up the Missouri; for the passion for *emigration to the West* is as ardent in Illinois and Indiana as in Massachusetts. While, therefore, this tide of emigration is moving off some of the first settlers of those States for the *farther West*, unless they are accompanied, or followed by missionaries and teachers, still grosser darkness must rest upon Missouri than now covers a part of the States East of the Mississippi. The city of St. Louis is too important in every sense to be relinquished by the Baptists, and yet it must be lost to them, unless something more efficient be speedily done to secure the post. It is already a large and growing place, and situated as it is at the confluence of those mighty rivers the Mississippi and Missouri, it must exert a powerful influence on all the region.

The Baptist interest here is very low, but it is hoped that something will soon be done to revive it. If a high school for both sexes could be established here under the superintendence of a competent teacher, and which would not be exorbitant in the price of tuition, it would doubtless draw many Protestant children and even the children of Baptists from the nunneries and other Catholic schools, and place them under a more healthy moral influence.

Such a school could be established, if a person of suitable qualifications would but undertake it.

DIFFICULTIES TO BE ENCOUNTERED.

Ignorance is the first great obstacle in the way of imparting knowledge every where ; but *here* it must be expected not only in the child, but in the adult. It will be found combined with strong prejudice in the parent, which must be met and scattered. Minds, like their native soil, will be found in all the roughness of nature ; and the mental cultivation must be commenced accordingly, not by presenting the most elevated standard, but by descending to their level, and rising with them to the desired elevation.

The want of proper books, in all the elementary branches of education, is seriously felt in many parts. In some places books cannot be obtained. In others they cannot be introduced, unless at the expense of the teachers, or furnished him by some remote benevolence. A charity which would furnish depositories of suitable books for primary and common schools, at proper points, either at low prices or for gratuitous distribution, would, in my opinion, be well directed. But one of the greatest obstacles to the promotion of education, at least of the right kind, in the West, and which should awaken the energies of the East in their behalf, is the silent and insidious, but yet zealous and powerful efforts of the Catholics. They are evidently doing a great work, and are urging forward in a secret, but systematic manner, what many of them doubtless think their pious purpose, *the conquest of the West*. They have men and money and spare neither.

Their colleges, and high schools and nunneries, where teachers are trained for schools of every grade, are already numerous and well endowed,

and are rapidly multiplying through all this vale. There is a Catholic College at St. Louis; another 80 miles below at Bais Brule Battom, and one at Bardstown in Kentucky, and one erecting in Michigan. They have high schools established at Cincinnati, and at St. Genevieve. Thus the upper half of the valley seems to be completely surrounded. Nunneries are numerous. There is one at St. Louis; one has recently been commenced at Kaskaskia, the ancient capital of Illinois; and at Vincennes, in Indiana, I understand, a company of the "holy sisters" was just beginning an establishment. Most of these places I visited in order to ascertain, if possible, the influence which they were likely to have on the Protestant population. In all their Institutions they are training and sending forth multitudes of teachers both male and female.

Their teachers are doubtless well qualified as it regards scientific attainments; and to a good education they add great suavity of manners and a courteous address; they can conciliate the affections of all, by becoming all things to all men, and thus gain some to submit to their influence. They receive *very cordially* protestant children, and *promise* not to interfere with their creed, or religious opinions; thus covertly and unsuspected by even their neighbours, they are spreading their wiles and extending their influence. And, while they furnish equally as good, not to say *better* instruction in science at a cheaper rate, than their protestant neighbours, they cannot but gain a powerful ascendancy. Protestants, who send their children to Catholic schools, are not aware of the danger, as there is no *direct*

attack made upon their sentiments. The consequences may be seen, when it is too late to remedy the evil. This is now the case, I am informed, with several families in the Western valley, and the evil may be expected to increase.

This powerful and systematic array of means must be met by energetic efforts on the part of Protestants, or soon those who wish for Protestant privileges must seek them elsewhere; this is now the case in Kaskaskia, the ancient capital of Illinois, *and the Protestant families are all leaving the place.*

Catholics not only have the majority in many towns, but this is true, if I was rightly informed, in some entire counties, even in Ohio.

While Europe then is constantly pouring her thousands into the valley, and Catholic colleges and seminaries are training and sending forth teachers by hundreds, shall the Protestants of this land of Protestant freedom slumber and sleep? Will not *Baptists*, who have always highly esteemed the blessing of civil and religious liberty, put forth their aid to rear a barrier to this swelling inundation which threatens to sweep away their choicest rights, to overspread the fairest portion of our country with destructive errors, and to destroy our fond hopes of the rising glory of the church in America?

QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHERS.

Those, who go to the West in the capacity of teachers, should be well qualified for their respective duties. In general, the same attainments are necessary there as here, for the various departments of teaching; but beside their mental acquirements,

certain other qualifications are all-important. It is very desirable that they should have acquired some experience ; should know something of human nature, and be able to read *men* as well as *books*. Teachers in the West, it is presumed, have failed in this point more than in any other. Inexperienced persons, in many instances, have gone forth to lay foundations which required "wise master builders."

They should be persons of decided piety, and mainly anxious for the spiritual welfare of their pupils. They should be capable of originating and superintending Sabbath Schools, and their hearts must be much in that work. In many places they would be remote from the stated worship on the Lord's-day. Hence a constant service might be kept up with the children of the settlement. The parents and others might be invited to attend ; and thus the school teacher will be an efficient missionary without the *odium* of the *name*.

But it is indispensable that teachers, who enter upon this work, should possess great firmness and decision of character. They should be persons who can patiently endure hardness and privation, and be willing to labour in hope, and look for a reward at a future day ; or be content to receive it in the conscientiousness of doing good.

Several have gone forth to labour in this department in the West, with much zeal, but, on being put down in the Western forests, have soon become discontented, and discouraged ; and have sighed for the society and privileges which they left behind. Such persons, after labouring awhile with

no comfort and little profit, have been obliged to relinquish their *task*. But I am happy to say that this is not the case with all. There are many worthy teachers, both male and female, who are urging forward with patient efforts, and good success the great work of education, and I hope, their numbers will be speedily increased many fold.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GREATER EXERTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION
OF EDUCATION IN THE WEST.

Every person of sober reflection must be persuaded that education, properly conducted, must be of immense importance to the rising generation of our country, as intelligence and piety, under God, must be the *palladium* of our civil liberties, and the hope of the Church. The lover of his country cannot but tremble for its rights, its civil and religious privileges, when he witnesses the thousands of foreigners who are continually pouring into the great valley through all her open gates. But what will another generation present, when these, swelled by natural increase, and augmented by constant emigration from the old continent, shall amount to millions? and especially, if it be correct, as is confidently believed, that the West will shortly wield the destinies of this great nation; how important then, that they should be an intelligent and virtuous people.

We have seen that Germany has sent a quarter of a million to Ohio; if this is intended to be restricted to Germany proper, then already one third of the population of this large and growing State are foreigners.

In the streets of Cincinnati more languages are spoken, it is presumed, than in any one city on the continent. Settlements of strangers are rapidly multiplying through all the vale; and another generation will doubtless witness millions covering their rich and fertile plains, and surrounding their mighty rivers. And shall they not be cared for?

The Christian philanthropist stretches his views to distant climes, and takes thought for the children of heathen far away. We send out, at great expense, teachers, and support schools in the farther India, and we do well; but shall we overlook the swelling thousands of children in our own States, and leave them destitute of wholesome knowledge, and that only which can benefit their souls? every proper consideration and sanctified motive would forbid it.

No! we will enlighten our sons at home, and spread, at the same time, the light of knowledge and salvation to distant lands.

It is computed that a small amount of means in this department of charity, properly managed, will accomplish a vast amount of good. Channels are now cut out to all the prominent points of the great valley, and correspondents selected who feel interested in the accomplishment of the object, and persons desirous of going to the West, can be directed to the most suitable sections of the country and recommended to persons who will use their influence to procure them situations. Besides, *on the educational enterprise must essentially depend the success of all other benevolent operations in the West.* Sabbath Schools are intimately

connected with it, and cannot be generally carried forward, or be efficient without it, owing to the paucity of persons suitable for teachers and superintendents. But with this society in operation, every teacher sent forth may be considered the erection of a Sabbath School in the West. The circulation of Bibles and religious tracts can only be of use as they are read; but if knowledge be kept from the rising generation, these will be sealed books to them.

The Home Missionary Society will not only be greatly aided by this Society, in all its operations, but of so great importance is it, that the Missionary enterprise could hope to accomplish but little without it, in those parts where the ground is not yet brought under cultivation.

On the whole, from all I saw, and from all that I could learn in the four States composing the upper half of the valley, I am persuaded there is no mode of benevolent operation where the same amount of means might be made productive of so much good to our country, to the common cause of Protestantism and to the Baptist interest, as by the establishment of an efficient *Western School Society*. Its operations would be going on silently, but permanently. It would be an acceptable service to the great mass of the population for whom it is intended, it would gain access where our preachers could not, and well prepare the way for the introduction of the gospel.

It is presumed, there is a large amount of unoccupied talent in the East. In almost all our churches are found persons well qualified to carry forward these important operations in the West, where they

are greatly needed. We call, therefore, upon those persons who wish to be useful to the cause of Christ, and to serve their country in the *best* sense, to come forward ; and we call upon the churches to aid in this great and benevolent enterprise.

BELA JACOBS.



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☞ All persons who desire to become teachers in the West can obtain information concerning the best locations, &c. on application to the Rev. Mr. JACOBS, *Corresponding Secretary*, of the Executive Committee of the Western Baptist Educational Association, at his residence in Cambridgeport.

☞ Letters desiring information concerning common schools or education in the Western Country may be addressed to Rev. BELA JACOBS, Cambridgeport, Middlesex County, Massachusetts.